

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01 SES-02 SY-05 MCT-02 EB-08
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 08714

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SHUM, PORS, IR
SUBJ: OPPOSITION LEADERS ARRESTED OR BEING SOUGHT;
CONTROVERSY SEPT 8 OVER DEATHS; 333 ANTI-STATE
SECURITY PRISONERS RELEASED

REF (A) TEHRAN 8563 (B) TEHRAN 8670

SUMMARY: SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS
FIGURES, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED; OTHERS ARE BEING SOUGHT.
COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM (CDHRF)
CLAIMS MORE KILLED IN SEPT 8 RIOT THAN GOI WILLING TO CON-
CEDE. NEWSMEN DOUBT COMMITTEE CLAIM. GOI ANNOUNCES RELEASE
OF 333 ANTI-STATE SECURITY PRISONERS OVER PAST WEEK.
NEIGHER MORTEZA MOHIT NOR FATEMEH NASRI-GHAJARI ERER ON
LIST. END SUMMARY

1. SECOND OPPOSITION SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED ARREST OF DR.
MEHDI BAZARGAN AND DR. MOFATEH REPORTED REF A. SOURCE
ALSO SAID WARRANTS ARE DEFINITELY OUT FOR DR. ALI ASGHAR
HAJ SEYED JAVADI, PROMINENT WRITER AND DR. ABDUL KARIM
LAHIDJI, LAWYER WHO HAS DEFENDED HUMAN RIGHTS CASES, BUT
BOTH ARE "STAYING WITH FRIENDS" FOR TIME BEING. ENG.
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RAMATOLLAH MOQHADDAM-MARAGHEI, RADICAL MOVEMENT CHIEF,
IS ALSO UNDER ARREST, CDHRF SECRETARY DR. NASSER MINATCHI
IS ALSO WANTED FOR QUESTIONING SINCE HIS RETURN TO IRAN
ON SEPT 8, DAY MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED.

2. COINCIDENTALLY, MINATCHI CALLED ON DEPUTY POL SECTION
HEAD STEMPEL SEPT 11 TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AS RESULT OF

HIS RECENT MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH HA'S MARK SCHNEIDER. HE CONFIRMED HE WAS WANTED BY SAVAK FOR QUESTIONING AND SAID HE WOULD BE CHECKING IN WITH SAVAK DURING COURSE OF DAY SEPT 12. HE ALSO INDICATED CDHRF HAD EVIDENCE THAT SEPT 8 RIOTS PRODUCED MORE DEATHS THAN GOI CLAIMS. STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE WAS BEING TRANSMITTED TO SCHNEIDER AND TO INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY CABLE, BUT MINATCHI WANTED EMBASSY TO KNOW DETAILS AND ASKED TO BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH SOME NEWSMEN(EMBOFF DID SO).

3. CDHRF STORY IS THAT REGISTRATION OF BODIES AT ONLY TEHRAN CEMETARY EXCEEDED NORMAL 750-800 PER DAY BODY COUNT BY 2000 ON SEPT 9 AND BY 1000 ON SEPT 19. MINATCHI CLAIMED THESE EXTRAS COULD BE CONSIDERED RIOT VICTIMS, BASED ON EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES WHO HAD BEEN NEAR JALEH SQUARE. EMBOFF RECOMMENDED HE TELL STORY TO NEWSMEN WHO MIGHT BE IN BETTER POSITION TO CHECK CLAIMS.

4. FOLLOWING MINATCHI SESSION, STEMPER HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH THREE NEWSMEN WHO HAD VISITED TEHRAN CEMETARY SEPT 9 AND 10 PRIOR TO LEARNING OF MINATCHI STORY. ALL THREE DOUBTED CDHRF FIGURES BASED ON THEIR REVIEW OF CEMETARY BURIALS ON THOSE TWO DAYS. AT LEAST ONE OTHER PRESSMAN WILL BE CHECKING REGISTRATION BOOKS AND EMBASSY MAY BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH IN COMING WEEK
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TO GET YET ANOTHER INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF CDHRF CLAIMS. VETERAN U.S. NEWSMAN WHO HAS HAD SOME THREE YEARS' EXPERIENCE ESTIMATED TEHRAN CROWDS AND WITNESSED EVENTS SAID THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 2,000-3,000 PEOPLE IN JALEH SQUARE WHEN FIRING STARTED SEPT 8; DISIDENT CLAIM THAT THERE WERE 6,000-7,000 THERE IS "RIDICULOUS". HIS OWN ESTIMATE OF DEAD IS IN RANGE OF 300-500.

5. PRESS MORNING SEPT 12 CARRIES STATEMENT FROM "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" THAT GOI HAS RELEASED 333 PRISONERS CONVICTED OF ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES OVER PAST WEEK. FULL LIST GIVEN IN PERSIAN PRESS IS BEING POUCH DEPT, BUT QUICK SCAN INDICATES MORTEZA MOHIT AND FATEMEH NASRI-GHAJARI WERE NOT RPT NOT AMONG GROUP. JUST ANNOUNCED SHAKE-UP IN JUDICIARY (REF B) WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO NAIL DOWN TOTALS AND OTHER DETAILS UNTIL DUST SETTLES.
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